

Crystal Cave Rocks!



Explore fabulous formations! Protected since its discovery in 1918, this is the only one of over 200 known caves in these parks that can be toured.

NPS Photo

No tickets are sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours in advance of your tour.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance on Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see map on page 12). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m).

Use restrooms at the parking lot; there are none at the cave. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket; the cave is 50° F (10° C).

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about Wild Cave Tours and group reservations!

Operated by SNHA:
1-559-565-3759.

• 45-Minute Daily Tours (check details above)

Schedule: Through 10/30. Saturdays 11am, 12pm, 3pm, & 4pm; Sundays through Fridays at 11am, 2pm, & 3pm. Extra tours may be added at other times.

Fees: Ages 6-12 \$5.95; age 13-61 \$10.95; age 62 & up, \$8.95; under 6 free. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount!

Activities

WALKS & TALKS Free ranger-led walks or talks may be offered at Giant Forest, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, & the Foothills, usually on weekends. Check bulletin boards to see what is scheduled. Pages 8 & 9 have more details, or ask a ranger.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, & other items. Remember: all your purchases there help to support the parks! See pages 8 & 9 for hours and locations.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn a Senior patch! Purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions & have fun!

TEACHERS: BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

Rangers offer fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, & other cultural history. Reserve a date for your class! Call 1-559-565-4303.

FIELD CLASSES & SEMINARS See the exciting list of options for you on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper. There's no better way to get to know your park!



80th Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

This ceremony in Grant Grove on December 11, 2005, honors those who have given their lives in service to their country. Sponsor: Sanger Chamber of Commerce - call 559-875-4575.

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn more, and use a map to know where you are!

- **WALK A PET?** *In Parks: Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). In National Forest: Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.*
- **GO CAMPING?** *In Parks: Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. In National Forest: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.*

- **COLLECT THINGS?** *Not in Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. In National Forest: Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.*
- **HAVE A FIRE?** *Regulations change during fall; always check before starting a fire. In Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. In National Forest: Fire permits are required outside picnic area grills & campgrounds. Get one at Grant Grove Visitor Center or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.*

CUT WOOD? *Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.*

- **GO FISHING?** *In both areas: Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.*
- **FEED WILDLIFE?** *Not in either area! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous and may have to be killed. Some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.*
- **GO PICNICKING?** *See picnic symbols on map (back page). Never leave food unattended! Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, & Powdercan.*
- **HUNT?** *Not in the Parks. Firearms must be dismantled prior to entering national parks. In National Forest: Only until 10/23, with license. For information: 559-243-4005.*

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** *Not in either area. Stay on roads.*
- **RIDE A BICYCLE?** *In Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. In National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.*

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Rides by-the-hour; backcountry spot trips & guides.

Grant Grove & Cedar Grove closed for the season

1-559-337-2314 off season

Horse Corral (Big Meadows in National Forest/Monument) - closes by mid-October

1-559-565-3404 summer

1-559-564-6429 off season

1-559-679-3573 cell

Mineral King - closed.

For information:

1-559-565-3106.